

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3090

INFO DOD/WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 0946

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR BEXP CO

SUBJ: GOC PURCHASE OF C-47 AIRCRAFT

1. COLONEL JOSE RAFAEL GONZALEZ, GENERAL MANAGER OF SATENA, VISITED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR JANUARY 26. SATENA IS A GOVERNMENT-OWNED AIRLINE, AFFILIATED WITH THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE; IT USES AIR FORCE PILOTS TO PROVIDE COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE TO REMOTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

2. SATENA IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF MORE AIRCRAFT, AND IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN SURPLUS, OVERHAULED C-47'S, FITTED WITH MODERN RADAR AND AVIONICS. THEY WOULD APPRECIATE PRICE QUOTATIONS ASAP ON C-47'S FITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT AND READY FOR FLIGHT; FLIGHT DIRECTOR OR ALTITUDE INDICATOR AND VERTICAL GYRO; RADAR (WEATHER) BENDIX RDR-1 OR BENDIX RDR 130B (NEW); TRANSISTORIZED TRANSPONDER AND DME; ADFS AND DUAL UHF AND ONE SSB STANDARD AS USED BY USAF OR NAVY. IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT SATENA WOULD PROBABLY BUY SIX AIRCRAFT. PLEASE ALSO INDICATE WHEN DELIVERY COULD BE MADE.

3. AS WITH DAAC, SATENA HAS BEEN UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE TO PURCHASE THE YAK-40, BECAUSE OF COLOMBIA'S LARGE SURPLUS IN ITS BARTER TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR. SATENA OFFICIALS ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE YAK AND WISH TO BUY U.S. EQUIPMENT, BUT
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THEY STATE THAT THEY MUST HAVE A FIRM U.S. OFFER TO PRESENT AS

ALTERNATIVE. THEY WISH TO AVOID INTERMEDIARIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND FOR THAT REASON THEY CAME TO THE EMBASSY.

4. COLONEL GONZALEZ IS TRAVELING TO THE U.S. (FT. LAUDERDALE) FEBRUARY 2 ABOARD A COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE FLIGHT, AND FROM THERE WILL FLY COMMERCIAL TO DAVIS-MONTHON AFB IN TUCSON TO INSPECT THE AIRCRAFT. LT. COL. CLYDE WILLIAMS OF THE U.S. MILGROUP HERE WILL ACCOMPANY. THE MILGROUP HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DAVIS-MONTHON AFB ON THIS MATTER. THE COLOMBIAN CONTACT IN THE U.S. IS GENERAL GOMEZ OF THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY.

5. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE AND THE EMBASSY'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE GOC PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT, WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT COORDINATE WITH COLOMBIAN EMBASSY AND USAF TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IT CAN, INCLUDING INSURING THAT PRICE QUOTATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION PER PARA 2 ARE PROVIDED ASAP. ALTHOUGH THE GOC HAS NOT REQUESTED FINANCING, WE SUGGEST THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF EX-IMBANK FINANCING BE INVESTIGATED.
VAKY

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